



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

ISOTOPIC TRACERS—A Theoretical and Practical Manual for Biological Students and Research Workers. G. E. Francis, Reader in Biochemistry, St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College; W. Mulligan, Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry, Glasgow University Veterinary School, and A. Wormall, Professor of Biochemistry, St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College. University of London, the Athlone Press, 1954. Distributed by John de Graff, Inc., 64 West 23rd Street, New York 10, 1954. 306 pages, \$7.00.

This book is divided into two parts. In the first part the theoretical principles underlying the preparation and measurement of radioactive and stable isotopes, their use as biological tracers, practical information concerning techniques, instrumentation, hazards and precautions in the use of radioactive isotopes, etc., are discussed.

The second part of the book contains detailed instructions for a course of practical exercises.

This book represents a summation of the lectures and demonstrations given by the authors at the St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College. These lectures particularly were adapted to meet the needs of selected undergraduates and graduates in science or medicine taking the London Hons. B. Sc. (Special Physiology) examination. These candidates had used or desired to use isotopes in their own researches in biochemical and physiological investigations.

The equipment described and used in this book was manufactured in Great Britain.

The authors emphasize that there is a real and increasing need for training centers where biological workers can acquire a knowledge of, and particularly practical instruction in, the use of Isotopic Tracer Methodology.

It is the hope of the authors that this book will be used as a practical laboratory handbook rather than a library reference book.

This book will be a valuable addition to the armamentarium of all biological students and research workers. The use of radioactive isotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes has attained a prominent position in both the clinical and research aspects of medicine. This book will be of limited interest to the physician not directly concerned with the use of isotopes for investigation.

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PRACTICE OF ALLERGY. Warren T. Vaughan, M.D., Richmond, Va. Third Edition revised by J. Harvey Black, M.D., Dallas, Texas. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1954. 1164 pages, \$21.00.

This *Practice of Allergy* by Warren T. Vaughan, with additions and revisions by one of his many friends, J. Harvey Black, also a renowned pioneer in allergy, continues to be the most important extended treatise in the field of clinical allergy. The profession is fortunate that this masterfully conceived and written volume continues to be available for present day students and also physicians in other specialties who are interested in clinical allergy, all of whom

should know this contribution and have it readily available for frequent reference. Dr. Black's many additions and revisions, moreover, justify the possession of either the second edition or especially this third edition even though the first edition has been in the physician's library for many years.

Dr. Vaughan's authoritative discussion of the history, terminology, experimental anaphylaxis and its identity to clinical allergy, and the immunology and pathology of clinical allergy have required little or no revision. His chapters on the frequency of allergy, heredity, minor and major allergies, the effects of climate and environment, the methods of history taking, skin testing, passive transfer, mucous membrane and patch tests, and other diagnostic procedures have changed little since the first edition. The specialty owes a great debt to Dr. Vaughan for his discussion and emphasis of clinical food allergy, along with the equally important inhalant allergy. The study of food allergy through history and diet trial and the errors inherent in test-negative diets receive proper attention in this work. The origin and relationship of all foods and condiments are important for reference. The section on pollens, the revised surveys of all individual states and other countries, and the diagnosis and treatment of pollen allergy are duly stressed and amplified. The book retains a most informative discussion and classification of fungi and discussion of the diagnosis of fungus allergy and the relative importance of fungi in clinical problems. Bacterial allergy continues to be, in the writers' opinions, of minor clinical importance. Drug allergy, of increasing frequency before and since the first edition of the book, receives present day consideration. The use and indications for cortisone and corticotropic hormone and the antihistamines are discussed. The causes of contact allergy and the accepted methods of study are presented.

New and important chapters on pulmonary function studies, the physiologic interpretation of clinical allergy, including the work of Selye, perennial hay fever, important additions to the pharmacology of allergy, histamine cephalalgia, the most recently revised elimination diets with their menus and recipes, and other subjects and phases of clinical allergy have been included by Dr. Black. In future additions a main challenge will be a more extended discussion of the many manifestations of allergy as encountered in practice.

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MANAGEMENT OF PAIN, THE—With Special Emphasis on the Use of Analgesic Block in Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Therapy. John J. Bonica, M.D., Director, Department of Anesthesia, Tacoma General and Pierce County Hospitals; Clinical Associate, Department of Anatomy, University of Washington Medical School. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1953. 1533 pages, 785 illustrations on 44 figures and 52 tables, \$20.00.

Since pain is the most common organic symptom which compels the patient to seek medical assistance, it is to be expected that a monograph on its management could justifi-